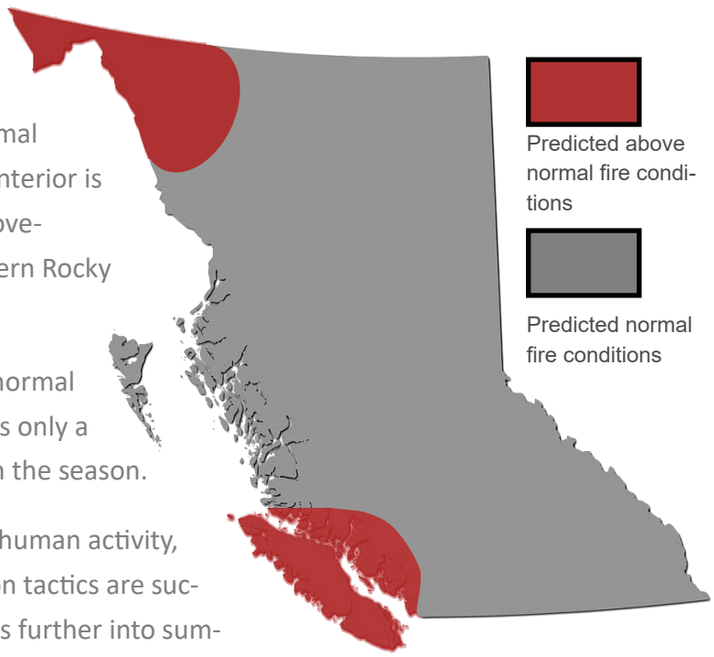
As of July 2, 2019

Summer Outlook (July) The majority of the province is experiencing normal fuel conditions due to the precipitation received during the latter half of June. Despite this rainfall, many weather stations recorded June as drier and warmer than normal. The province still has underlying drought conditions that could rapidly dry fuels once rainfall amounts diminish.

The northwest corner of the province has received the least rainfall and remains an area of concern this summer. As well, forecasts indicate that much of the coast may see below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures (refer to map). The interior is also showing the potential for warmer temperatures, but above-seasonal rainfall (e.g. Nechako Plateau, Bulkley region, northern Rocky Mountains).



The number of wildfires so far for this time of year are near-normal (443). However, the number of hectares burned (11,294 ha) is only a fraction of what we've experienced in the past at this stage in the season.

A reported 66% of fire starts this season have been linked to human activity, followed by lightning-caused fires at 32%. Current suppression tactics are successfully holding most wildfires to a small size. As we progress further into summer, suppression may be challenged by an increase in the amount of dry fuels.

Extended Outlook (August - September) This period continues to show a high probability of above-seasonal temperatures in the southern half of the province, particularly on Vancouver Island.

How does the BC Wildfire Service predict the severity of a fire season?

This forecast was assessed by meteorologists and fire behaviour specialists who considered a range of environmental factors and observed weather data. This includes accounting for conditions that affect soil moisture, fine fuel dryness, and vegetation growth, which influence the amount of fuel available to burn.

What factors influence this prediction?

The severity of a fire season is highly dependent on local weather patterns, such as: timing and amount of precipitation, length of dry periods, thunderstorms, and wind events. Long-term weather models are useful to indicate trends and patterns over time, but daily weather cannot be reliably forecast much beyond a few days in advance. The BC Wildfire Service maintains its levels of preparedness by studying forecasts, referencing previous seasons, and analyzing trends to get a good indication of what to expect in the upcoming season. We will continue to collect data and utilize forecasting models to produce monthly updates of our seasonal outlooks.

What can people do to prepare for an upcoming fire season?

For information on how to promote wildfire resiliency within our forests and communities, visit:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention or www.FireSmartBC.ca